

With Brogpa & Khampa 95

be difficult to recognize, that is if those who are less so are scrupulously honest! Although they now speak a dialect of Tibetan they must at one time have had a language of their own of which one sometimes strikes peculiar remnants. At Kalatse, for instance, the branches of the pencil cedar are freshly put on one of their *lhatos* at the New Year, accompanied by the mumbling of phrases which they do not understand themselves, but which are usually remains of their own Dardish language. 291 197 788

Nothing, however, can be more strange than their religious arrangements. As has already been mentioned, the Brogpa of Hanu and also of the village of Da, which is quite near-by, is a Buddhist, but often in a Buddhist family one member must of necessity be a Mohammedan. Of a similar, but converse arrangement, a most striking example is told. We passed through the village of Bot Kharbu on our way up to Leh. Here there lives a family of Mohammedan Brogpas, but one member of this family must always be a Buddhist priest of the neighbouring monastery of Lamayuru. Now the Mohammedan is only allowed to eat the meat of an animal that has been *hallalled*, that is to say has had its throat cut, whilst the butcher says "Bismillah—it is the will of God," whereas the Buddhist eats meat killed in any way, so long as he himself has not taken the life of the animal. This family avoids such complications by the simple expedient of cooking all the meat in one pot, irrespective of how the animal has been killed, then inserts a bit of stick into the cooking pot, which is said to separate off *hallalled* meat from *unhallalled*, and all the Mohammedan has to be careful about is that he shall not take meat from the wrong side of the stick. Another method they have of keeping on good terms with the spirit powers of both religions is to make members of successive generations of the same family belong to the religion of Mahomet and the lamas in turn. Thus the Brogpa supplies us with another version of the Vicar of Bray story. Some authorities account 162 592 771 [992] [252] [264]

432

DĀRDISTĀN.

[CHAP. XVIII.]

D One might infer that they¹ are, or have been, of the Shīn caste, from the fact that all those customs concerning the cow, which we saw to be characteristic of that caste, are held by these Buddhist Dārds to an extreme degree.

177 It is curious to trace how in some respects they keep to the customs of the race they sprang from, and how in others they have adopted the customs of the Buddhists.¹ There seems to be an instance of the former case in that their headmen of villages (at all events in the Hanū Valley) are elected for three years only, and even within that time are sometimes changed; this is certainly a trace of the republican system, of which something will be said in Chapter XX. On the other hand, we see them following the Buddhist Ladākhs in the practice of polyandry, to which they are completely given; among these Buddhist Dārds a woman has sometimes as many as five husbands.

D Their religion, I think, lies easy upon them¹; they are not so attentive to its ordinances as the Ladākhs are; and I do not think that any of their young men are trained up to be Lāmās. Their dead they burn, and the bones of them they stow away in holes in the cliff, closing up these with stones.

SUNDRY NOTES.

D Leaving now the Buddhist Dārds, we will note a few isolated facts concerning the race generally.

167 It has been seen from the map that the Dārds have spread, driven by want, or by oppression, or by disturbances, from their own countries across certain ridges into valleys that were occupied by other races; in these they often live side by side with those other races—as with the Kashmiris and the Baltis—sometimes in villages separate, sometimes occupying part of the same village.

B At Rōndū the Dārds nearly equal the Baltis; the two do not intermarry. At Bāsho also the two races are about half and half, but here they have intermarried, and the distinctiveness has been broken up. At Dorū and at Satpūr they are of those who do not drink cow's milk; these must be of the Shīn caste.

167 ¹ [ie Buddhist Dārds living in Ladakh. An. 17. 27.]